



U.S. Department of Justice
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PRESS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Niagara Falls, New York has received Official Recognition from the United States Justice Department's Executive Office for Weed and Seed ("EOWS") as a Weed and Seed Site.

Operation Weed and Seed is a strategy within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs that incorporates community-based initiatives. It is a comprehensive and multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

The Niagara Falls Weed and Seed Steering Committee, with the Niagara Falls Housing Authority acting as the lead agency, is comprised of a multitude of partners including the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York, Niagara Falls Police Department, Niagara County District Attorney's Office, City of Niagara Falls, Block Club Coalition, Niagara University, Niagara Falls Board of Education, Landlord's Association of Greater Niagara Inc., Niagara Ministerial Council, Niagara Community

College - Trott Access Center, Family and Children's Services, Main Street Business Association, Outreach for Wellness in Niagara, Neighborhood Housing Services, Niagara County Sheriff's Department, New York State Park Police and Niagara Community Center.

United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, Michael A. Battle, commended all the partners involved for developing the site's innovative and multi-agency Weed and Seed strategy. Battle stated, " We look forward to working with the partners as we go forward with our initiative to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang activity in the targeted Niagara Falls neighborhoods. The City of Niagara Falls possesses strong neighborhood associations, solid community and business support and a commitment from Federal, State and Local law enforcement agencies that will serve well this initiative."

The Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area and "seeding" brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment and neighborhood revitalization. A community-oriented policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies.

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